

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Docket: KNAPP3

In re Application of:) Confirmation No.:
)
Rainer KNAPP, et al.) Art Unit:
)
Appln. No.: Not yet assigned) Examiner:
)
Filed: April 15, 2004) Washington, D.C.
)
For: ADJUSTABLE-LENGTH GAS...) April 15, 2004
)
)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT [IDS]

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window, Mail Stop DD
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Sir :

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, as it is filed:

(Check one of the boxes A-D)

[X] A. within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application or within three months of

the entry into the national stage of the above-identified international application.

[X] B. before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

[] C. after (A) and (B) above, but before final rejection or allowance, and Applicants have made the necessary certification (box "i" below) or paid the necessary fee (box "ii" below).

(Check one of the boxes "i" and "ii" below:)

[] i. Counsel certifies that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was either

[] (a) first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or

[] (b) not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

(use one and delete other of following)

[] ii. A check (check no. _____) for the fee set forth in §1.17(p), presently believed to be \$180, is enclosed. If the enclosed payment is incorrect, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4035.

[] ii. Credit Card Payment Form, PTO-2038, is attached authorizing payment of the fee set forth in §1.17(p), presently believed to be \$180. If the enclosed payment is incorrect, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4035.

[] D. after (A), (B) and (C) above, but before payment of the issue fee: Applicant(s) state as follows under 37 CFR §1.97(e) for consideration of this IDS, that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was either

(Check one of the boxes "a" and "b" below)

[] (a) first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or

[] (b) was not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

(use one and delete other of following and this note) A check (check no. _____) for/ Credit Card Payment Form, PTO-2038, is attached authorizing payment of the fee set forth in §1.17(p), presently believed to be \$180 is enclosed. If the enclosed payment is incorrect, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4035.

2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., Form PTO/SB/08A) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached, except as explained below.

(check boxes A, B and/or C and fill in blanks, if appropriate)

[] A. Document(s) _____ is (are) deemed substantially cumulative to document(s) _____, and, in accordance with §1.98(c), only a copy of each of the latter documents is enclosed.

[] B. Certain documents were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the following prior application(s), which are relied upon under 35 U.S.C. 120:

(insert serial numbers and filing dates of prior applications)

Applicant(s) identifies these documents by attaching hereto copies of the forms PTO-892 and PTO-1449 (or PTO/SB/08A) from the files of the prior application(s) or a fresh PTO-1449 (or PTO/SB/08A) listing these documents, and request that they be considered and made of record in accordance with §1.98(d). Per 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of these documents need not be filed in this application.

[X] C. Document(s) AA is (are) U.S. patent(s) and/or published application(s). As this is a U.S. application filed after June 30, 2003, or an entry into national stage under 35 USC §371 after June 30, 2003, the requirement to file copies of such U.S. patents or published applications has been waived. (Office of Patent Legal Administration - Pre O.G. Notice of July 11, 2003).

3. Document(s) AB-AN, AS is (are) not in the English language. In accordance with §1.98(c), Applicant(s) states:

- [X] An English translation of each document AC-AI, AK-AN (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application, or English-language abstract (or claim) is enclosed.
- [X] A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) AB-AN, AS is found in the attached German search report (see reply to Comment 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).
- [] A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ is set forth as follows:
(insert concise explanation of relevance)
- [] A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ can be found on page(s) _____ of the specification.
- [] A concise explanation of document(s) _____ can be found on the attached sheet.

4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 and 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

5. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:

(insert other information)

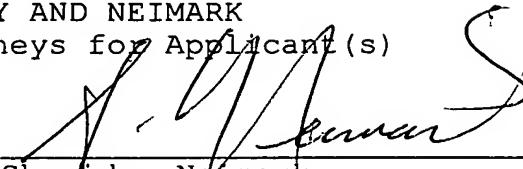
6. In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of

the item and Applicant(s) reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete If Known	
				Application Number	Not yet assigned
				Filing Date	April 15, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Rainer KNAPP
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	KNAPP3

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AA	US-4,949,941	08-21-1990	Hans J. BAUER, et al.	
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Number Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AB	DE 195 28 645	02-13-1997	Stabilus GmbH	
	AC	DE 44 20 134	10-05-1995	Fichtel & Sachs AG	
	AD	DE 34 42 262	07-23-1987	Fichtel & Sachs Industries, Inc.	
	AE	DE 196 08 771	04-24-1997	Fichtel & Sachs AG	
	AF	DE 44 28 259	02-15-1996	Stabilus GmbH	
	AG	DE 42 12 282	10-14-1993	Stabilus GmbH	
	AH	DE 40 00 865	07-18-1991	Stabilus GmbH	
	AI	DE 25 28 980	01-13-1977	Stabilus GmbH	
	AJ	DE 76 21 266	11-11-1976	Stabilus GmbH	
	AK	DE 69 44 199 U	04-23-1970	Hermann Hemscheidt, Maschinenfabrik	
	AL	DE 1 960 545 U	05-18-1967	Hermann Hemscheidt, Maschinenfabrik	
	AM	FR 2500556	02-23-1981	Jacques Gabriel ALLINQUANT	
	AN	FR 1.584.110	12-12-1969	Compagnie Parisienne D'Outillage A Air Comprime	
	AO	GB 2 280 487	02-01-1995	Camloc (UK) Limited	
	AP	GB 2 179 411	03-04-1987	Stabilus GmbH	
	AQ	GB 565,630	11-20-1944	Ribbesford Company Limited	
	AR	EP 0 648 954 A1	01-20-1992	Stabilus GmbH	
	AS	EP 0 353 550 B1	07-20-1989	SUSPA COMPART Aktiengesellschaft	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.